

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 19, 21-30, and 32-34 are currently pending. Claims 20 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 18, 19, 21, 24-26, 29, 30, and 32 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 31 was objected to as containing an informality; and Claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,800 to Hendrickson et al. (hereinafter “the ‘800 patent”).

Regarding the objection to Claim 31, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to that claim is rendered moot by the present cancellation of Claim 31.

By way of background, the present invention is provided to execute a centralized progress management of work processes executed in each of a plurality of medical equipments.

Amended Claim 18 is directed to a system connected to at least one of a plurality of medical equipments and configured to manage various works each of which is performed by using the at least one of the plurality of medical equipments and relates to at least one patient or at least one medical examination, the system comprising:

a generate unit configured to generate a stream list which includes a plurality of stream information, the stream information being a flow of work processes performed in one work;

a select unit configured to select a displayed work process;

an update unit configured to update the stream list on the basis of a progress situation of works selected by the select unit and

¹ See, e.g., page 30, line 19 to page 31, line 24 of Applicants’ specification.

performed in the at least one of the plurality of medical equipments; and

a display unit which displays the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the '800 patent is directed to a method and apparatus for clinical pathway order selection in a medical information system. The '800 clinical pathways are associated with a patient condition and include sequence time intervals and order sets showing medical treatment, examination, care, instructions, and so forth to be performed for each patient.²

However, it is respectfully submitted that the '800 patent fails to disclose a display unit which displays the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes. Rather, the clinical pathways of the '800 patent are merely to manage medical works for each patient,³ and cannot be used to centralize and manage the stream of medical works which the plurality of medical equipments included in the global system execute. The '800 patent does not disclose a display unit which *displays the updated stream list* so as to *share information of the medical examination* and *execute a centralized progress management of the work processes.*

For a non-limiting example, according to the present invention, since the updated stream list is always displayed so as to share information of the medical examination, it is possible to centralize and manage the stream of medical works which the plurality of medical equipments included in the global system execute. As a result, it is possible to easily and appropriately manage the executive schedule of the plurality of medical equipments so as to effectively execute the necessary medical works. That is the advantage of the present invention that cannot be obtained by the '800 patent.

² See '800 patent, Fig 2 and the discussion related thereto.

³ Id.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over the '800 patent.

Amended Claim 24, recites in part,

a display unit which displays the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes.

Amended Claim 29, recites in part,

displaying the updated stream list so as to share information of the medical examination and execute a centralized progress management of the work processes.

As noted above, the '800 patent fails to disclose a display unit, as recited in Claim 1. Thus, the '800 patent fails to disclose the system and the method of Claims 24 and 29, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 24 and 29 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '800 patent.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 24, and 29 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '800 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

Johnny Ma
Registration No. 59,976